

BEFORE THE OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS  
FRANK D. REEVES MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
2000-14<sup>th</sup> STREET, N.W., SUITE 420  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009  
(202) 671-0550

IN THE MATTER OF	)	DATE: October 24, 2003
	)	
Bernadette Bullock	)	DOCKET NO.: 03F-094
Attorney Advisor	)	
DC Public Schools	)	
1220 East-West Highway, #520	)	
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	)	

**ORDER**

**Statement of the Case**

This matter came before the Office of Campaign Finance (hereinafter OCF) Office of General Counsel following a determination by its Public Information Records Management Division, that pursuant to the D.C. Code §1-1106.02 (2001 Edition), Bernadette Bullock, Attorney Advisor, DC Public Schools, failed to timely file, a Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2002, on or before May 15, 2003 as required by D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02 and also failed to file on or before the OCF sanctioned extended filing deadline of June 19, 2003.

By Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance dated August 8, 2003, OCF ordered Bernadette Bullock (hereinafter respondent), to appear at a scheduled hearing on August 19, 2003 and show cause why she should not be found in violation of the D.C. Campaign Finance Reform and Conflict of Interest Act of 1974, as amended by D.C. Official Code §§1-1101.01 et seq., and fined accordingly.

**Summary of Evidence**

OCF alleges that the respondent failed to timely file the statutorily required Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2002, on or before June 19, 2003.

On August 19, 2003, respondent appeared at the scheduled hearing and testified that she is currently the Coordinator of Mediation for Special Education for the District of Columbia Public Schools. Respondent further stated that notices from OCF were sent to a former address, and that recent health issues over the past 4 – 5 months, coupled with high work demands, have contributed to the filing oversight. At the hearing, respondent presented medical documentation to substantiate her diagnosis, as well as evidence that

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an OCF notice was sent to a former address. Respondent referenced her record of timely filing in past year. Respondent filed the required FDS at the conclusion of the hearing.

**Findings of Fact**

Having reviewed the allegations and the record herein, I find:

1. Respondent timely filed Financial Disclosure Statements in 2002 and 2001.
2. Respondent was required to file a Financial Disclosure Statement with OCF for calendar year 2002, on or before June 19, 2003.
3. Respondent filed the required Financial Disclosure Statement on August 19, 2003.
4. OCF mailed delinquency notices to respondent's former address.
5. Respondent's address of record was provided to OCF by respondent's agency, which failed to notify OCF of a change of address.
6. Respondent has no history of prior filing delinquencies.
7. Respondent's explanation for the filing delinquency is credible in that service of OCF's notices was defective due to an incorrect address of record.
8. Respondent is currently in compliance with the statute.

**Conclusions of Law**

Based upon the record provided by OCF, I therefore conclude:

1. Respondent violated D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02.
2. The penalty established at D.C. Official Code §1-1103.05(b)(3), and 3 DCMR §§3711.2(aa), 3711.2 and 3711.4 for failure to timely file a Financial Disclosure Statement required by D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02 is a fine of \$50.00 per day for each business day subsequent to the due date.
3. In accordance with D.C. Official Code §1-1103.05(b)(3), the respondent may be fined a maximum of \$2,000.00 for failing to timely file a Financial Disclosure Statement.

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4. For good cause shown pursuant to 3 DCMR §3711.6, the Director of Campaign Finance (Director) may modify, rescind, dismiss or suspend any fine.
5. Respondent's explanation for failing to timely file constitutes good cause for suspension of the fine.

**Recommendation**

In view of the foregoing and information included in the record, I hereby recommend that the Director suspend the imposition of the fine in this matter.

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**Date**

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**Jean Scott Diggs  
Hearing Officer**

**Concurrence**

In view of the foregoing, I hereby concur with the Recommendation.

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**Date**

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**Kathy S. Williams  
General Counsel**

**ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR**

**IT IS ORDERED** that the fine in this matter be hereby suspended.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery**  
**Director**

**SERVICE OF ORDER**

This is to certify that I have served a true copy of the foregoing Order.

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**Rose Rice**  
**Legal Assistant**

**NOTICE**

Pursuant to 3 DCMR §3711.5 (1999), any fine imposed by the Director shall become effective on the 16<sup>th</sup> day following the issuance of a decision and order, if the respondent does not request an appeal of this matter. If applicable, within 10 days of the effective date of this order, please make a check or money order payable to the D.C. Treasurer, c/o Office of Campaign Finance, Suite 420, 2000-14<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.